

B R E V I O R A

Museum of Comparative Zoology

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

JUNE 18, 1957

NUMBER 76

TWO NEW LAND AND FRESHWATER MOLLUSKS FROM NEW GUINEA

By WILLIAM J. CLENCH

The first species was received from Mr. James Poling of New York City, the second from Mrs. Marjorie Kleckham of Daru, Papua, New Guinea.

Mr. Poling purchased all of the remaining stock of the land and marine mollusks from Ward's Natural Science Establishment in Rochester, New York, after the death of Mr. F. H. Ward. Contained in this miscellaneous material were a few lots of land shells, originally obtained from some collector in New Guinea. Subsequent correspondence by Mr. Poling with Ward's has failed to add to the meager data accompanying the specimens. Just who the collector was or the exact locality in New Guinea still remains unknown. The locality is somewhere in western New Guinea, to judge by the associated specimens from the same collector.

VERDICHLORITIS new subgenus

This subgenus differs from all other species in the subfamily Chloritinae by being a dull jade green. All other species, now numbering over 200, are uniformly brown, red-brown, or banded with some shade of brown or red-brown. The usual arrangement of the periostracal "hairs" is in staggered or offset rows; in this subgenus the rows are regular.

Type species. Eustomopsis (Verdichloritis) polingi Clench.

EUSTOMOPSIS (VERDICHLORITIS) POLINGI, new species

Figure 1

Description. Shell small, reaching 15 mm. in greatest diameter,

planorboid in shape, thin, fragile and minutely hirsute. Color a uniform and dull jade green. Whorls $3\frac{1}{2}$, convex, and coiled in a single plane. Spire depressed below the body whorl. Aperture subcircular. Outer lip thin and very narrowly reflected.

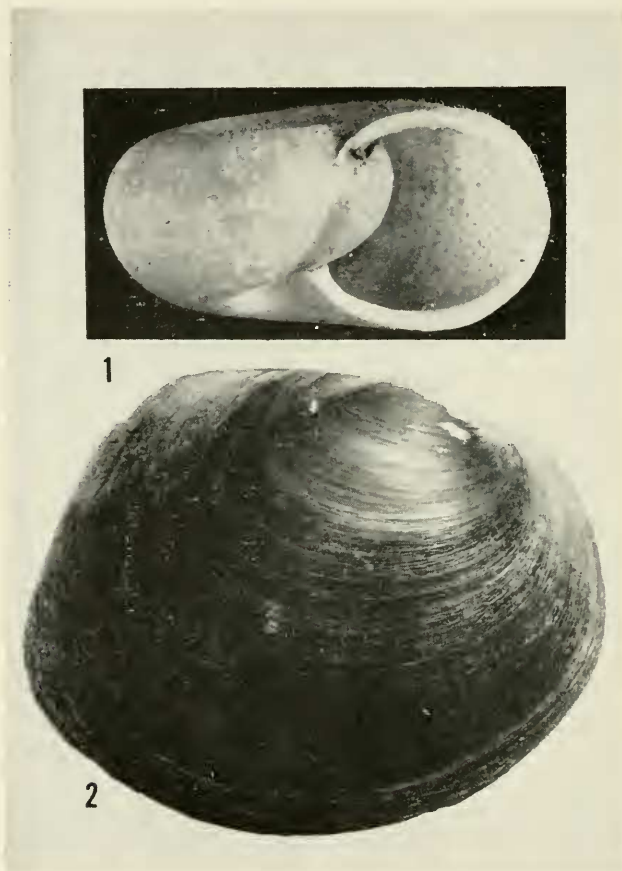


Fig. 1. *Eustomopsis (Verdichloritis) polingi* Clench (Holotype, 4X).

Fig. 2. *Westralunio albertsi* Clench (Holotype, 1.5X).

Parietal area covered with a very thin glaze. Sculpture consisting of numerous rows of very short, gold-colored periostracal "hairs" which are arranged axially and slightly diagonally.

following the lines of growth. These rows are regular and not staggered or offset as in other species of *Eustomopsis*. Umbilicus narrow but deep, the nuclear whorl being visible. Periostracum jade green overlaying a nearly glass-like shell.

Height	Gt. diameter	Less. diameter	
7.5 mm.	15 mm.	11.5 mm.	Holotype

Type. The holotype is in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, No. 212319, from western New Guinea.

Remarks. This new species is quite remarkable. The dull jade green color sets it well apart from all other species in the subfamily Chloritinae. So far as I am aware, all other species in the Chloritinae are uniform brown, red-brown, chocolate brown, or light brown to yellowish and banded with brown. Many species are hirsute, that is, the periostracum forms little "hairs" in regular or offset rows, such "hairs" emanating from small pits impressed in the calcium of the shell.

It is quite possible that this species is arboreal and, as in many other groups, the species which become arboreal also become somewhat brightly colored, as, for example, species in *Liguus*, *Polymita*, *Placostylus*, *Helicostyla*, *Amphidromus* and many other genera.

A factor of considerable interest is the green color, a rare color even in arboreal mollusks. A few species are banded with green, such as *Liguus* and *Amphidromus* but nearly solid green is exceedingly rare. *Helicina viridis* Lamarek and *H. castilloi* Clench from Hispaniola, *Papustyla pulcherrima* Rensch from the Admiralty Islands, two or three species of *Helicostyla* and *Chloraea* from the Philippines are about all the known species to possess this color predominantly.

WESTRALUNIO ALBERTISI, new species

Figure 2

Description. Shell inequilateral, subcircular in outline, rounded anteriorly, subtruncate posteriorly and reaching 53 mm. in length. Umbos rather small, slightly elevated above the dorsal margin and anterior to the center. Shell moderately compressed and rather light in structure. Color a dark blackish brown. Posterior slope fairly well marked and slightly concave. Pos-

terior ridge not well defined. Ligament long and very narrow. Periostracum shining on the disc but somewhat scaly and dull on the posterior slope.

Nacre white, shining and slightly iridescent posteriorly. Muscle scars well outlined. Hinge plate long and narrow. Right valve with two pseudocardinal teeth, the innermost being the larger. In addition, there is a single and long, narrow, lateral tooth. Left valve with a single pseudocardinal tooth and two long and narrow lateral teeth.

Length	Height	Width	
53 mm.	42 mm.	20 mm.	Holotype
51	44.5	22.5	Paratype
57	50.0	25	Paratype, Lake Murray, Fly River

Types. The holotype is in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, No. 212908, inland from Daru, Western Division, Papua, New Guinea. A single paratype from the same locality is in the Australian Museum, Sydney. An additional paratype is from Lake Murray, Herbert River, Fly River System. All specimens were collected by Mr. Kleckham of the Department of Agriculture, Papua.

This new species is related to *Wcstralonio flyensis* Tapparone Canefri from the upper Fly River, Papua. It differs from *W. flyensis* by being far more circular in outline and in being proportionately somewhat greater in width. In addition, the ventral margin is rounded, the posterior portion of the dorsal margin is somewhat wing-like and the posterior ridge is well defined.

This species is named for L. M. d'Albertis, a naturalist-explorer who was in New Guinea in 1872-73 and again in 1875. Much of the mollusk work accomplished by Tapparone Canefri was based upon material collected by d'Albertis.

REFERENCES

HAAS, F.

1924. Unsere bisherigen Kenntnisse der Najadenfauna Neu-Guineas, Nova Guinea, **15**: 65-76, 1 plate.

McMICHAEL, D. F.

1956. Notes on the fresh water mussels of New Guinea. *Nautilus*, **70**: 38-48, 1 plate.